

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 11, wherein the ~~providing an interface includes: providing a plurality of parameters to define the data storage mechanisms mechanism is defined by a plurality of parameters.~~
- 3 – 5. (Canceled).
6. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 11, wherein the data storage mechanisms include ~~mechanism is selected from the group consisting of~~ byte array read/write, file I/O, and Java Database Connectivity (JDBC).
- 7 – 10. (Canceled).
11. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
 - receiving a request to read or write state data of a virtual machine, the request received from an application executed by the virtual machine;
 - selecting a data storage mechanism to use;
 - if the request is a data write,
 - creating a persistence data object into which to write the data,
 - assigning a unique identifier to the persistence data object;
 - writing the state data into the persistence data object;
 - storing a record of the unique identifier and the persistence data object;
 - directing an operating system to access the data storage, and

writing the data object to the data storage according to the determined data storage mechanism; and

if the request is a data read,

creating a persistence data object to be loaded with the data

directing an operating system to access the data storage,

locating state data to be read based on a unique identifier associated with a stored persistence data object; and

loading the state data from the stored persistence data object into the created persistence data object according to the determined data storage mechanism.

12 – 16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium storing instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method comprising:

receiving a request to read or write state data of a virtual machine, the request received from an application executed by the virtual machine;

selecting a data storage mechanism to use;

if the request is a data write,

creating a persistence data object into which to write the data,

assigning a unique identifier to the persistence data object;

writing the state data into the persistence data object;

storing a record of the unique identifier and the persistence data object;

directing an operating system to access the data storage, and

writing the data object to the data storage according to the determined data storage mechanism; and

if the request is a data read,

creating a persistence data object to be loaded with the data

directing an operating system to access the data storage,

locating state data to be read based on a unique identifier associated with a stored persistence data object; and

loading the state data from the stored persistence data object into the created persistence data object according to the determined data storage mechanism.

18. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the data storage mechanism is defined by a plurality of parameters.

19. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the data storage mechanism is selected from the group consisting of: byte array read/write, file I/O, and Java Database Connectivity (JDBC).

20. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the selected data storage mechanism is specified by the request.

21. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the operations performed if the request is a data write and the operations performed if the request is a data read are implemented by generic routines shared by a plurality of data storage mechanisms.

22. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the selected data storage mechanism is specified by the request.

23. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the operations performed if the request is a data write and the operations performed if the request is a data read are implemented by generic routines shared by a plurality of data storage mechanisms.